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University of Montana Course Syllabi, 2021-2025

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Spring 2-1-2022

### LING 574.50: Historical Linguistics

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#### Recommended Citation

Appelbaum, Irene N., "LING 574.50: Historical Linguistics" (2022). *University of Montana Course Syllabi, 2021-2025*. 691.

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## I. CONTACT INFORMATION

### Instructor

Irene Appelbaum

irene.appelbaum@umontana.edu

Virtual Office Hours by Appointment:

M, T, W, R 9AM -11AM, Mtn Time

(See Moodle for link to schedule)

### Moodle

This is a fully on-line course. All material (including lecture notes, readings, and assignments) will be posted on the Moodle website for this course. To access this website, go to <https://moodle.umt.edu/login/> and log-in with your NET ID. If this is your first experience using Moodle, you may want to visit Moodle 101 for Students (<https://moodle.umt.edu/enrol/index.php?id=13709>).

### Technical Support

Technical support for Moodle is available through the UM IT Help Desk (8AM-5PM, M-F). The number for live phone support is: (406) 243-HELP. You can also reach them by email, [ithelpdesk@umontana.edu](mailto:ithelpdesk@umontana.edu), or by visiting the UM Solutions Center (<https://umt.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/2032/Portal/Home/filling>).

## II. READINGS

The following textbook is required for this course:

Campbell, Lyle (2020). *Historical Linguistics: An Introduction*, Fourth Edition. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, ISBN: 978-0-262-54218-0.

Additional readings will be made available via the Moodle course site.

## III. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the three central aims of historical linguistics: (i) understanding how languages change over time, (ii) classifying languages as genetic units, and (iii) reconstructing aspects of unattested languages. With respect the first aim, we will survey major types of diachronic language change at a variety of levels. These include sound change, morphological change, semantic & lexical change, and syntactic change. The second aim, classifying languages as genetic units, includes establishing language families by identifying sound:meaning correspondences and, where possible, identifying sub-groupings within language families using the criterion of shared innovation. The third aim, reconstructing unattested languages, includes reconstructing the proto-language of a language family using the comparative method, as well as reconstructing the pre-language of an individual language using the method of internal reconstruction. Additional topics to be addressed include language contact, explanation of language change, and glottochronology.

## IV. LEARNING OUTCOMES

After successfully completing this course, students should have:

- the ability to identify diachronic changes in the world's languages at a variety of levels
- the ability to apply the comparative method to reconstruct languages

- the ability to apply the criterion of shared innovation to perform sub-grouping of languages
- the ability to apply the method of internal reconstruction to reconstruct prior stages of a language
- knowledge of early and more recent explanations of language change
- knowledge of the role of language contact in reconstruction efforts
- an understanding of the effects of language contact on the birth and death of languages.

## V. COURSE ORGANIZATION

This course is offered fully on-line. It is organized by week. Each week's material will typically include: a Powerpoint lecture, an associated textbook reading, a Quiz, and for most weeks, an Assignment. (See below for details.) There will also be a Mid-Term Exam, a Final Exam, and a Final paper (See below for details.) Quizzes are due on the Thursday of the week in which they are assigned; Assignments are due on the Friday of the week in which they are assigned. Each week's material will be made available on the preceding Saturday by noon. You may work at your own pace, so long as you complete the week's requirements on time. (See below for details.)

## VI. ASSESSMENT

Your work in this course will be assessed by the following requirements:

**QUIZZES:** There will typically be one quiz each week. (**12 Quizzes** in all; see below for exact schedule.) The quizzes will be based exclusively on the lectures and are meant to encourage you to read and work through the lectures carefully. You must take each quiz **twice**; only the higher grade will count. Each quiz is worth 2% of your final grade. **Quizzes are due on the Thursday of the week they are assigned, by 11:59 PM.**

**ASSIGNMENTS:** There will be **12 Assignments** during the semester. Assignments 1 and 2 are worth 2% each; Assignments 3-8 are worth 4% each. These will consist of brief essays and/or problem sets. Assignments 9-12 are worth 6% each and will consist exclusively of problem sets. **Assignments are due on the Friday of the week they are assigned, by 11:59 PM.**

**MID-TERM EXAM:** The Mid-Term Exam will take place **Friday, March 18**. It will be available from 6 AM to 11:59 PM. You will have 60 minutes to complete the exam and you will be allowed one attempt. If you anticipate being unable to take the mid-term on the assigned day, you must inform the instructor as soon as possible. More information about the structure and content of the mid-term will be posted during the semester. A student who fails to take the mid-term at the scheduled time and who does not have a written excuse from a medical doctor or other excused absence in accord with University Policy, will receive a zero for the mid-term.

**FINAL EXAM:** The final exam will be cumulative, but weighted in terms of material from the second half of the semester. The final exam will take place **Tuesday, May 10**. It will be available from 6 AM to 11:59 PM. You will have two hours to complete the exam and you will be allowed one attempt. If you are unable to take the Final Exam on the assigned day, you must inform the instructor as soon as possible. The specific topics to be covered and the format of the final exam will be posted later in the semester. A student who fails to take the final exam and who does not have a written excuse from a medical doctor or other excused absence in accord with University Policy will receive a zero for the final exam. From the University Catalog: Students may seek relief from writing more than two examinations during the same day. Students who are

scheduled for more than two examinations may contact the appropriate faculty to arrange an alternate testing time during the scheduled final examination period.

**FINAL PAPER:** Students will be required to write a final paper of approximately **2,000 words (3,000 words for students enrolled as graduate students)** which will be due on the last day of classes: **Friday, May 6 by 11:59 PM**. Topics for the paper will be suggested, but students may write on a topic of their own choosing with the instructor's approval. More information about the structure and format for the paper will be posted later in the semester.

**GRADES:** Your final course grade will be based on the following calculation:

12 Quizzes @ 2% each	24 %
2 Assignments @ 2% each	04 % (Assignments 1,2)
6 Assignments @ 4% each	24 % (Assignments 3-8)
4 Assignments @ 6% each	24 % (Assignments 9-12)
Mid-Term Exam	08 %
Final Exam	08 %
Final Paper	08 %

**GRADING SCALE:** Your final course grade will be based on the following scale:

93.00% - 100.00% A	80.00% - 82.99% B-	67.00% - 69.99% D+
90.00% - 92.99% A-	77.00% - 79.99% C+	63.00% - 66.99% D
87.00% - 89.99% B+	73.00% - 76.99% C	60.00% - 62.99% D-
83.00% - 86.99% B	70.00% - 72.99% C-	0.00% - 59.99% F

**GRADUATE INCREMENT:** Students who are registered for Linguistics 574 will be required to complete the following additional assignments:

- Mid-Term Exam: one additional essay
- Final Exam: one additional problem set
- Final Paper: 1,000 additional words (3,000 total)

**NOTE:** *No alternative or extra credit assignments will be permitted; please do not ask!*

## VII. COURSE POLICIES

**Student Conduct Code:** You are expected to adhere to the University of Montana Student Conduct Code (<https://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/default.php>).

**Academic Honesty:** All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University.

**Plagiarism Warning:** Plagiarism is the representing of another's work as one's own. It is a particularly intolerable offense in the academic community and is strictly forbidden. Students who plagiarize may fail the course and may be remanded to Academic Court for possible suspension or expulsion (<http://www.umt.edu/catalog/acad/>).

**Course Accommodations:** The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equity. If you have a disability that adversely affects your academic performance, and you have not already registered with

the Office for Disability Equity, please contact the Office for Disability Equity in Lommasson Center 154 (406-243-2243). I will work with you and the Office for Disability Equity to provide an appropriate modification. For more information, visit the Office for Disability Equity (<https://www.umt.edu/disability/>).

**Withdrawing from the Course:** From the Registrar (<https://www.umt.edu/registrar/students/default.php>): Through the 15<sup>th</sup> instructional day, all classes are dropped in CyberBear. From the 16<sup>th</sup> through the 45<sup>th</sup> instructional day, all classes must be dropped using Drop forms (instructor signature required, advisor signature required for undergraduates). **\$10 fee applies.** From the 46<sup>th</sup> to the last instructional day prior to finals week, classes must be dropped using the Drop form (instructor and Dean signatures required, advisor signature required for undergraduates). **\$10 fee applies.**

**Email:** In accordance with University policy: I will use only the email address provided for you on the Moodle website for class emails; I will only respond to emails sent to me from your University email address; and I will not communicate grade information via email. **It is your responsibility to keep informed about information contained in email sent to your University email account.**

**COVID-19:** All students are strongly encouraged to remain vigilant in mitigating the spread of COVID-19. UM recommends students get the COVID vaccine and booster. COVID-19 vaccines are available on a walk-in basis at the Health Service Pharmacy in Curry Health Center (<https://www.umt.edu/curry-health-center/pharmacy/default.php>). If you feel sick, are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, or if you become ill, please contact Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330. **Please contact the instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements to keep up, or catch up, with assignments.** Additional information about COVID-19 may be found on the University Coronavirus website (<https://www.umt.edu/coronavirus/>).

## VIII. ADDITIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

### Academic Support

- Strategies for Online Students (<https://moodle.umt.edu/enrol/index.php?id=31356>) : A self-enrollable, self-paced tutorial for students to help them identify their preferred learning styles and learn strategies for being a successful online student.
- Writing and Public Speaking Center (<https://www.umt.edu/writing-center/default.php>) : Provides help at any point with writing, presentation, and research projects. Online and in-person appointments available.

### Personal Wellness Support

- University of Montana Emergency Student Support Fund (<https://supportum.org/givingopportunities/campusinitiatives/emergency-student-support-fund.php>) : Established to help enrolled students with unexpected crisis or hardship created by COVID-19.
- UM Food Pantry (<https://www.umt.edu/asum/agencies/food-pantry/default.php>) : Currently providing free meal kits and hygiene products for students, staff, faculty, and community members.

## IX. COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK	LECTURE	READING	DUE TH	DUE FRI
T 1-18	Introduction and Overview	CH 1*	Quiz 1	Assignment 1
<b>I. LEVELS OF LANGUAGE CHANGE</b>				
<b>Sound Change</b>				
M 1-24	Types of Sound Change 1	CH 2.6.1; AR 1**	Quiz 2	Assignment 2
M 1-31	Types of Sound Change 2	CH 2.7	Quiz 3	Assignment 3
M 2-07	Allophonic vs. Phonemic Change	CH 2.3, 2.4	Quiz 4	Assignment 4
M 2-14	Rules, Relative Chronology, Chain Shifts	CH 2.8, 2.9	Quiz 5	Assignment 5
<b>Morphological Change</b>				
T 2-22	Analogy, Morphologization, Typological Change	CH 4; AR 2; AR 3	Quiz 6	Assignment 6
<b>Word-Level Change</b>				
M 2-28	Borrowing	CH 3	Quiz 7	Assignment 7
M 3-07	Lexical & Semantic Change	CH 5, CH 6	Quiz 8	Assignment 8
<b>Syntactic Change</b>				
M 3-14	Mechanisms, Grammaticalization, Typological Change	CH 11.2, 11.4; AR 4	Quiz 9	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>
M 3-21	<i>Spring Break</i>			
<b>II. RECONSTRUCTING LANGUAGES</b>				
<b>Reconstructing Proto-Languages</b>				
M 3-28	The Comparative Method 1	CH 7.1-7.3	Quiz 10	Assignment 9
M 4-04	The Comparative Method 2	CH 7.4-7.7	-----	Assignment 10
<b>Reconstructing Pre-Languages</b>				
M 4-11	Internal Reconstruction	CH 8	Quiz 11	Assignment 11
<b>III. CLASSIFYING LANGUAGES</b>				
M 4-18	Language Families and Sub-Grouping	CH 9.1-9.4	Quiz 12	Assignment 12
<b>IV. ADDITIONAL TOPICS</b>				
M 4-25	Language Contact	CH 10	-----	-----
M 5-02	Explaining Language Change; Glottochronology	CH 12; CH 16.2	-----	-----
<b>T 5-10</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>			

\* CH refers to chapters of Campbell (2020).

\*\* AR refers to additional readings, posted on Moodle.